

CLAIMS

1. A baseball playing area cover comprising;
a flexible material having a perimeter that defines a predetermined configuration;
and
a weight associated with said flexible material for retaining said flexible material
in a desired position after the cover has been situated on a baseball playing area.
2. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 1 wherein said weight is
permanently retained in said flexible material.
3. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 1 wherein said weight is
remote from, but secured to, said flexible material.
4. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 3 wherein said weight is
permanently retained in said perimeter.
5. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 1 wherein said weight is
received between plies of said flexible material that define a weight-receiving area.
6. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 5 wherein said flexible
material comprises a heat seal to define said weight-receiving area and to retain said
weight in said weight-receiving area.
7. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 5 wherein said flexible
material is sewn to define said weight-receiving area and to retain said weight in said
weight-receiving area.
8. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 5 wherein said weight-
receiving area extends continuously around said perimeter.
9. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 5 wherein a plurality of
separate weight-receiving areas are provided in said perimeter in intervals.

10. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 5 wherein said weight-receiving area extends at least partly around said perimeter and further comprise at least one interior weight-receiving area extending toward a center area of said flexible material.

11. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 5 wherein a plurality of separate weight-receiving areas are provided in said perimeter in intervals.

12. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 1 wherein said weight is received in a plurality of weight-receiving areas extending between a plurality of points on said perimeter.

13. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 8 wherein said weight-receiving area defines a spiral interior of said perimeter in said flexible material.

14. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 5 wherein said a flexible material is folded onto itself and heat sealed or sewn to define said weight-receiving area.

15. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 1 wherein said weight is comprises at least one of a chain, pellets, sand, earth, rock, concrete, aggregate, polymer, a second fabric.

16. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 5 wherein said weight is comprises at least one of a chain, pellets, sand, earth, rock, concrete, aggregate, polymer, a second fabric.

17. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 1 wherein said predetermined configuration defines a circumference of at least six feet.

18. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 1 wherein said predetermined configuration defines a polygonal shape.

19. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 18 wherein said polygonal shape defines a pentagon, hexagon or octagon.

20. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 18 wherein said polygonal shape comprises a non-equilateral pentagon, hexagon or octagon.

21. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 1 wherein said flexible material comprises at least one of the following: vinyl laminated polyester; coated polyester; polyethylene sheet or woven polyethylene; a vinyl laminated or coated onto a polyester scrim fabric; a vinyl sheet; a vinyl laminated to a polymer woven scrim fabric; a vinyl coated polymer woven scrim; a vinyl laminated or coated onto any receptive fabric scrim; or a polymer laminated or coated onto any receptive fabric scrim.

22. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 5 wherein said flexible material comprises vinyl laminated polyester; coated polyester; polyethylene sheet or woven polyethylene; a vinyl laminated or coated onto a polyester scrim fabric; a vinyl sheet; a vinyl laminated to a polymer woven scrim fabric; a vinyl coated polymer woven scrim; a vinyl laminated or coated onto any receptive fabric scrim; or a polymer laminated or coated onto any receptive fabric scrim.

23. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 1 wherein said weight comprises a chain located in a hem around a perimeter of said flexible material.

24. A baseball cover delivery system comprising:
a roll for storing a baseball cover;
each end of said roll comprising a coupler;
a first member for coupling to said coupler and for lifting said roll and baseball cover off of the ground when it is being transported to and from a baseball area; and
a second member for coupling to said coupler for moving the roll when it is desired to unroll the baseball cover onto said baseball area or to take up said baseball cover onto said roll.

25. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 24 wherein said first member and said second member comprise a tool for coupling to said coupler.

26. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 24 wherein said coupler is an eyebolt.

27. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 24 wherein said first member is a handle situated through said eyebolt.

28. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 24 wherein said first member is a handle defined by an end of said eyebolt.

29. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 24 wherein said second member is a braided member for coupling to said coupler.

30. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 26 wherein said eyebolt is generally L-shaped.

31. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 24 wherein said ends of said roll comprise an end cap for receiving said coupler, said system further comprising a tensioning cable for connecting said couplers together.

32. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 34 wherein said roll comprises a plurality of sections and a connector for coupling said plurality of sections together.

33. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 26 wherein said first member is a handle situated through said eyebolt.

34. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 24 wherein said baseball cover comprises:

a flexible material having a perimeter that defines a predetermined configuration;
and

a weight associated with said flexible material for retaining said flexible material in a desired position after the flexible material has been situated on a baseball playing area.

35. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 34 wherein said weight is received in a weight-receiving area formed in said flexible material.

36. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 35 wherein said flexible material is sewn or heat sealed to define said weight-receiving area and to retain said weight in said weight-receiving area.

37. The baseball playing area cover as recited in claim 36 wherein said weight is a chain located around said perimeter.

38. A baseball field protection system comprising:

a baseball cover comprising a flexible material having a perimeter that defines a predetermined configuration and a weight associated with said flexible material for retaining said flexible material in a desired position after the cover has been situated on a baseball playing area.

a roll for storing the baseball cover, each of said ends comprising a roll;
means for lifting the roll and moving the roll on the ground.

39. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 38 wherein said means comprises a first member and a second member, said first member for lifting the roll and said second member for moving the roll on the ground.

40. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 38 wherein said means comprises a projection extending from each end of said roll.

41. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 40 wherein said first member is a handle situated through said projection.

42. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 39 wherein said first member is a handle defined by an end of said projection.

43. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 39 wherein said second member is a braided member.

44. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 40 wherein said projection is generally L-shaped.

45. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 38 wherein each of said ends of said roll comprises an end cap, said means further comprising a tensioning cable between said ends.

46. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 45 wherein said roll comprises a plurality of sections and a connector for coupling said plurality of sections together.

47. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 38 wherein said weight is permanently retained in said flexible material.

48. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 47 wherein said weight is permanently retained in at least part of said perimeter of said flexible material.

49. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 38 wherein said weight is received in a hem formed in said perimeter of said flexible material.

50. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 49 wherein said flexible material is folded and sewn or heat sealed to define a weight-receiving area for receiving said weight.

51. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 38 wherein said weight is comprises at least one of a chain, pellets, sand, earth, rock, concrete, aggregate, polymer, or a second fabric.

52. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 38 wherein said predetermined configuration defines a polygonal shape.

53. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 52 wherein said predetermined configuration defines a pentagon, hexagon or octagon.

54. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 52 wherein said polygonal shape comprises a non-equilateral pentagon, hexagon or octagon.

55. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 50 wherein said weight is a chain.

56. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 46 wherein said weight is permanently retained in said flexible material.

57. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 56 wherein said weight is permanently retained in at least part of said perimeter of said flexible material.

58. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 38 wherein a plurality of covers are stored on said roll.

59. A method for protecting at least one baseball area of a baseball laying field, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a baseball cover comprising a flexible material having a perimeter that defines a predetermined configuration and a weight associated with said flexible material for retaining said flexible material in a desired position after said flexible material has been situated on a baseball playing area;

providing a roll for storing the baseball cover, each end of said roll comprising a coupler; and

providing a projection at each of said ends of said roll to permit said roll to be lifted and carried towards and away from said at least one baseball area and also for facilitating said baseball cover to be unrolled from said roll in order to cover said at least one baseball area.

60. The method as recited in claim 59 wherein said projection comprises a first handle.

61. The method as recited in claim 59 wherein said roll comprises a coupler integrally coupled to an end of said roll.

62. The method as recited in claim 59 wherein said coupler provides a handle, said gripper comprising at least one extension for coupling to said coupler to permit user to pull said roll.

63. The method as recited in claim 61 wherein said coupler is an eyebolt capable of receiving a handle, said system further comprising an extension member for coupling to said coupler for enabling a person to move said roll when delivering said baseball cover onto said at least one baseball area.

64. The method as recited in claim 63 wherein said extension means comprises a rope.

65. A method for protecting a baseball field area, said method comprising the steps of:

lifting a roll and positioning it in proximate relation to said baseball field area, said roll comprising a baseball cover stored thereon, said baseball cover comprising a flexible material having a perimeter that defines a predetermined configuration and a weight associated with said flexible material for retaining said flexible material in a desired position after the cover has been situated on a baseball playing area; and

unrolling said baseball cover from said roll by moving said roll over said baseball playing area until said perimeter of said roll surrounds said baseball playing area.

66. The method as recited in claim 65 wherein each end of said roll comprises a projection, said method further comprises the step of :

grabbing said projections of said roll to lift the roll to perform said lifting step.

67. The method as recited in claim 66 wherein said method further comprises the step of pulling said projections to perform said unrolling step.

68. The method as recited in claim 67 wherein said method further comprises the step of pulling said projections with a rope.

69. The method as recited in claim 68 wherein said projection is an eyebolt.

70. A baseball field protection system comprising:

a baseball cover comprising a flexible material having a perimeter that defines a predetermined configuration and a weight associated with said flexible material for retaining said flexible material in a desired position after the flexible material has been situated on a baseball playing area.;

a roll for storing the baseball cover; and

a gripper located on each end of said roll for lifting said roll and baseball cover and carrying it towards and away from said at least one baseball area and also for unrolling said baseball cover to protect said at least one baseball area when said baseball cover is unrolled thereon.

71. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 70 wherein said gripper comprises a projection extending from each end of said roll for enabling the roll to be lifted and moved.

72. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 71 wherein said projection further provides means for attaching a tool thereto.

73. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 70 wherein said projection is an eyebolt.

74. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 72 wherein said tool comprises a handle situated through said eyebolt.

75. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 72 wherein said means comprises an eyebolt through which said tool may be inserted.

76. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 75 wherein at least part of said tool comprises a rope or braided member.

77. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 71 wherein said eyebolt is generally L-shaped.

78. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 70 wherein said end of said roll comprises an end cap at each end and through which at least one projection is located, said system further comprising a tensioning cable coupling said at least one end and projection in each end together.

79. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 75 wherein said roll comprises a plurality of sections and a connector for coupling said plurality of sections together.

80. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 70 wherein said system further comprises a first member for lifting said roll with said flexible member thereon and a second member for moving said roll when it is on the ground.

81. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 80 wherein said first member and said second member are integral with or coupled to said roll.

82. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 80 wherein at least one of said first member or said second member are not integral with or coupled to said roll.

83. The baseball cover delivering system as recited in claim 82 wherein said first member comprises a projection extending from an end of said roll and said second member comprises a tool for coupling to said projection in order to move said roll.

84. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 70 wherein said weight is permanently retained in said flexible material.

85. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 84 wherein said weight is permanently retained in said perimeter.

86. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 70 wherein said weight is received in a hem formed in said flexible material.

87. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 86 wherein said flexible material is heat sealed to define said hem and to retain said weight in said weight-receiving area.

88. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 70 wherein said weight comprises at least one of a chain, pellets, sand, earth, rock, concrete, aggregate, polymer, or a second fabric.

89. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 87 wherein said weight is comprises at least one of a chain, pellets, sand, earth, rock, concrete, aggregate, polymer, a second fabric.

90. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 70 wherein said predetermined configuration defines a polygonal shape.

91. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 90 wherein said predetermined configuration defines a pentagon, hexagon or octagon.

92. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 91 wherein said polygonal shape comprises a non-equilateral pentagon, hexagon or octagon.

93. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 89 wherein said predetermined configuration defines a polygonal shape.

94. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 93 wherein said predetermined configuration defines a pentagon, hexagon or octagon.

95. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 91 wherein said polygonal shape comprises a non-equilateral pentagon, hexagon or octagon.

96. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 86 wherein said hem extends at least partly around said perimeter and comprises at least one interior weight-receiving area extending toward a center area of said flexible material.

97. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 70 wherein said weight is distributed in spaced intervals around said perimeter.

98. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 97 wherein said weight is situated in a hem in said spaced intervals.

99. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 86 wherein said weight is situated in a weight-receiving area between at least two points on said perimeter.

100. The baseball cover delivery system as recited in claim 70 wherein said weight is situated in a plurality of pockets provided in said flexible material, at least one of said pockets being located on said perimeter.